

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form****1. Name of Property**historic name Tolhurst, G. W., Houseother names/site number Talhurst-Burr House, Pemberton-Munroe House**2. Location**street & number 345 East Argonne [N/A] not for publicationcity or town Kirkwood [N/A] vicinitystate Missouri code MO county St. Louis code 189 zip code 63122**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments ☐.)


Signature of certifying official/Title Claire F. Blackwell/Deputy SHPO12 Aug 2002
DateMissouri Department of Natural Resources

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria.
(See continuation sheet for additional comments ☐.)

Signature of certifying official/Title_____
Date_____
State or Federal agency and bureau**4. National Park Service Certification**

I hereby certify that the property is:

☐ entered in the National Register.
See continuation sheet ☐.☐ determined eligible for the
National Register.See continuation sheet ☐.☐ determined not eligible for the
National Register.☐ removed from the National
Register.☐ other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Tolhurst, G. W., House
St. Louis County, Missouri
Historic Resources of Kirkwood, Missouri

Page 2

5. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources Within Property	
		Contributing	Non-contributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	1	1
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	0	0
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	0	0
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	0	0
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	1	1
			buildings
			sites
			structures
			objects
			Total

Name of related multiple property listing.

Historic Resources of Kirkwood, Missouri

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register.

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

DOMESTIC/ single dwelling

Current Functions

DOMESTIC/ single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification

Late Victorian/ Italianate

Materials

foundation Stone
 walls Wood

 roof Metal
 other Wood
Asphalt

Narrative Description See continuation sheet [x].

See continuation sheet []

**Tolhurst, G. W., House
St. Louis County, Missouri
Historic Resources of Kirkwood, Missouri**

Page 3

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

☐ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

☐ **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

☒ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

☐ **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

Property is:

☐ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

☐ **B** removed from its original location.

☐ **C** a birthplace or grave.

☐ **D** a cemetery.

☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

☐ **F** a commemorative property.

☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

See continuation sheet [x].

9. Major Bibliographic References

Bibliography

See continuation sheet [x].

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested

☐ previously listed in the National Register

☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register

☐ designated a National Historic Landmark

☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey

#

☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record

#

Areas of Significance

Architecture

Period of Significance

ca. 1874

Significant Dates

ca. 1874

Significant Person(s)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Primary location of additional data:

☒ State Historic Preservation Office

☐ Other State Agency

☐ Federal Agency

☒ Local Government

☐ University

☐ Other:

Name of repository:

Tolhurst, G. W., House
St. Louis County, Missouri
Historic Resources of Kirkwood, Missouri
10. Geographical Data

Page 4

Acreage of Property Less than one acre**UTM References**

A. Zone	Easting	Northing	B. Zone	Easting	Northing
15	726460	4273320			
C. Zone	Easting	Northing	D. Zone	Easting	Northing

[] See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared Byname/title See Continuation Sheet

organization _____ date _____

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets**Maps**A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.**Photographs**Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.**Additional Items**

(Check with the SHPO or FOP for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Ms. Lillian Munroestreet & number 345 East Argonne Dr. telephone _____city or town Kirkwood state MO zip code 63122

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

Tolhurst, G. W., House
St. Louis County, Missouri
Historic Resources of Kirkwood, Missouri

SUMMARY: The G. W. Tolhurst House, at 345 E. Argonne in Kirkwood, St. Louis County, Missouri, is a two story Italianate style house with an irregular plan and a tall square tower. Constructed ca. 1874, the highly intact house is a good example of Property Type B. Italianate Houses, Subtype, Italian Villa. It meets the registration requirements for that property type set forth in the MPS Cover document "Historic Resources of Kirkwood, Missouri." Typically Italianate features include an irregular floor plan, multiple, low-pitched hip roofs with wide, overhanging eaves, paired brackets, and wide frieze boards at the main eave lines. A two and one-half story square tower with a bellcast hip roof projects above the roof of the main house; that feature, paired with the irregular massing, is characteristic of the Italian Villa subtype. The tall, narrow windows have elaborate surrounds, and an open one-story porch spans the facade and wraps around to both sides. The porch posts and balustrade may not be original, but are early. This does not detract from the house's integrity of design, however, as a vast majority of its distinctive Italianate features are intact. The house is set back from the street on a relatively large lot. The only other resource on the property is a small garage with modern siding; the garage is a non-contributing property. The house retains integrity in the areas of materials, workmanship, location, and setting. It is immediately recognizable to its period of significance, which corresponds to the construction date of ca. 1874.

ELABORATION: The G.W. Tolhurst House is one of the more elaborate examples of the Italianate Residences property type in Kirkwood, employing the distinctive square tower that is often considered to be characteristic of the Italian Villa. The house has an irregular floor plan, and the tower is located along the west part of the facade, where a polygonal wing joins the main block of the house. The tower projects an additional half story above the rest of the house, and has a bellcast roof of moderate pitch. The remaining hip roofs are very low-pitched, with wide, overhanging eaves; most are covered with very early standing seam metal roofing. Widely spaced, paired brackets adorn a wide frieze board on all but a rear addition.

The house faces south to East Argonne Street. The front elevation has three bays, including the one-bay tower. The original portion of the two-story residence is clad with wide, flat wood siding, which is painted white. The front (south) elevation has a wide one-story tall porch which wraps around both side elevations, meeting two-story projecting wings of the house. The porch supports are slender round columns, between which run a turned spindle frieze and simple low wood balustrade. A wide set of steps lead up to the front door, and the open foundation of the porch is faced with early wooden latticework.

An early rear addition has a low hip roof and vinyl siding over narrow wood clapboards. The addition is not visible from the street. The rear ell, although not original, is very early, probably from the late 1800s. (It is indicated on the footprint of the house included in the 1909 Atlas map, and was also shown on the 1921 Sanborn map.) A small, one story vestibule with a shed roof provides rear

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

Tolhurst, G. W., House
St. Louis County, Missouri
Historic Resources of Kirkwood, Missouri

entry to this section from the north.

The windows on the front part of the house have elaborate wood surrounds, which appear to have been custom-made. The window on the second story of the tower has a semi-circular top, while all others are topped with flattened arch crowns. All have wide trim boards cut into elaborate shapes. The flat surfaces of the trim boards are incised with floral and geometrical designs. (See photo 2.) The windows themselves are tall, narrow, one-over-one, double-hung sash which are early or original. The windows on the rear ell are set in simple rectangular frames, and are four-over-four, also early or original.

The front entry door is wood, with a large single fixed glass sash and a lower wood panel. The door is flanked by two large sidelights with wood panels below, and a large arched transom above. The door opens to a formal stair hall which retains its original staircase and other millwork. The house has high molded baseboards, and similar molded trim around the interior doors and windows.

The house sits about halfway back on its long, narrow lot. Near the back of the lot is a one story frame garage which has a gable roof and vinyl sided walls. The garage is a non-contributing building. A concrete sidewalk leads from the street to the front door, and there is a driveway on the east side of the house. The yard has a few large deciduous shade trees, and a variety of smaller deciduous and broadleaf evergreen trees.

The Tolhurst house continues to serve its original single family use, and has seen no exterior alterations of note since the time of its construction. It is a highly intact example of the Italian Villa subtype of the Italianate Houses property type, and appears today very much as it did when new. △

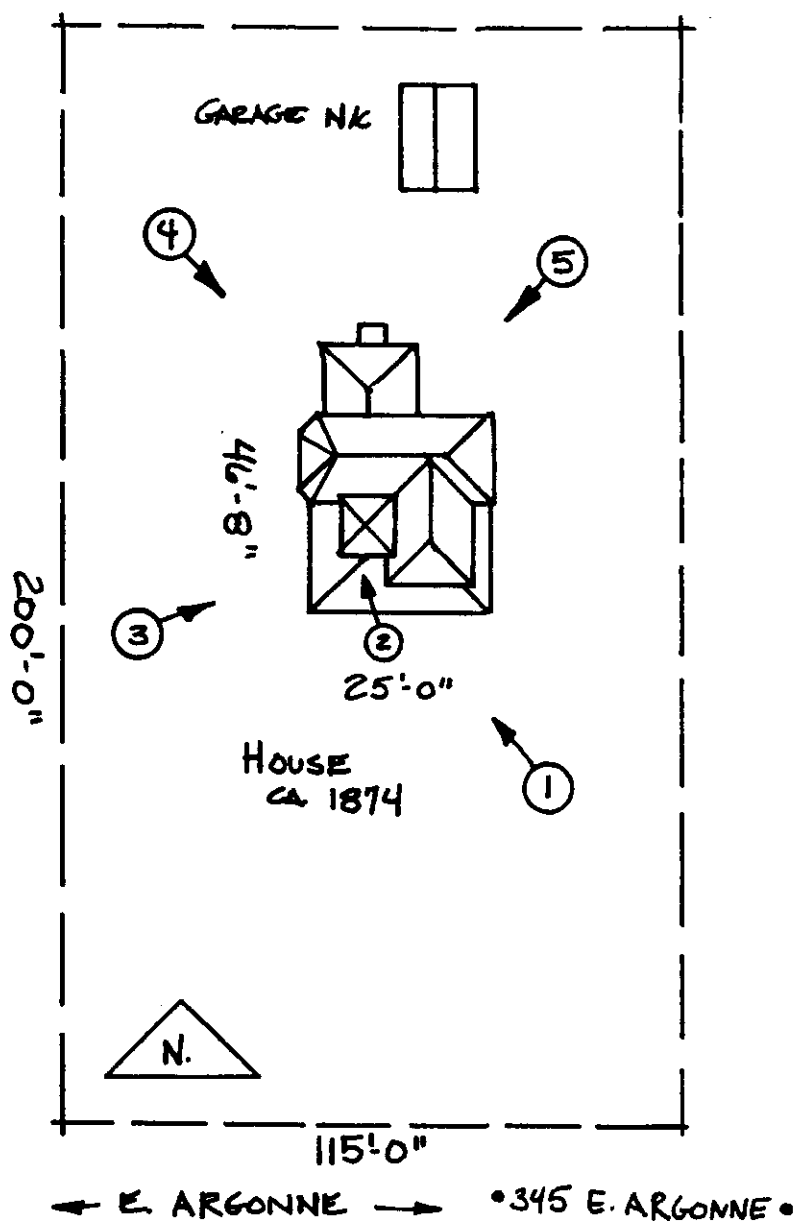
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 3

Tolhurst, G. W., House
St. Louis County, Missouri
Historic Resources of Kirkwood, Missouri

Figure One. Site Plan and photo key.



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 4

Tolhurst, G. W., House
St. Louis County, Missouri
Historic Resources of Kirkwood, Missouri

SUMMARY: The G. W. Tolhurst House, 345 E. Argonne, in Kirkwood, Missouri, is significant under Criterion C, in the area of ARCHITECTURE, as a large intact example of the Italian Villa subtype of the Italianate Houses property type. The house meets the registration requirements for that property type set forth in the MPS Cover document "Historic Resources of Kirkwood, Missouri," and falls under the context "The Town of Kirkwood: Late Nineteenth Century Suburban Growth-1865-1898." The identifying features of this property type found on the Tolhurst House include multiple low-pitched roofs with widely overhanging eaves and paired decorative brackets, accentuated windows with arched crowns, and an irregular floorplan. Those features are all typical of Property Type B.: Italianate Houses. The large square tower of the facade, paired with an irregular plan, mark this as an example of the Italian Villa subtype. This house was built at the height of local popularity for the Italianate style, and exhibits many characteristics shared by the Italianate houses of Kirkwood. It was built ca. 1874 for George W. Tolhurst, a dentist from St. Louis, and was home to several prominent citizens of Kirkwood over the years. The period of significance for the property corresponds with its construction date of ca. 1874. The house appears today much as it did then, and exhibits a high degree of integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, and feeling.

ELABORATION: The Tolhurst house is a highly intact, representative example of the Italianate House property type.¹ Italianate elements on the Tolhurst house include an irregular plan, arched windows, and a low-pitched roof with wide eaves. The wide frieze boards and paired scrolled brackets of the eaveline are also typical. The apparently hand-carved surrounds of the arched windows found on this house are especially notable. Although clearly of the Italianate style, they are unusual for the survey group, in which mass-produced, or at least machine-made, woodwork is more typical. The wide flat wood siding on the house is also typical, if of a slightly different form, than that found on other Italianate houses in the area. Many of the Italianate houses in the community which have wood siding utilize beveled boards and wood quoins to imitate masonry; the Tolhurst house has simpler wall surfaces, with plain flat siding boards and no corner treatments. The house is like the vast majority of the Italianate houses in Kirkwood, in that it is two stories tall with a one-story open porch.

The tall square tower of the house is an identifying feature of the Italian Villa subtype. The combination of irregular massing and the prominent tower reflect a desire to emulate the picturesque qualities of Italian farm houses. In Kirkwood, houses of this subtype tend to exhibit a higher level of style than their contemporaries, and in general, are among the more highly styled residences to survive from their time period. Although one of the more subdued local examples of that subtype, the

¹ See MPS Cover document "Historic Resources of Kirkwood, Missouri, Section F, Associated Property Types," for more discussion of the Italianate House property type.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 5

Tolhurst, G. W., House
St. Louis County, Missouri
Historic Resources of Kirkwood, Missouri

Tolhurst house is nonetheless notable for its refined Italianate styling.

George W. Tolhurst, a dentist, purchased the property in the spring of 1874.² The house may have been a summer residence for Tolhurst, or a speculative venture, as he apparently did not own it very long. The property and house were sold to Edwin Morris within a few years; Morris was listed as the owner when it was mapped for the 1878 atlas. The atlas also shows that the house was unlike many of its contemporaries, in that even when new, it occupied a relatively small lot. The property was part of the Spenser Smith subdivision, which was directly adjacent to the eastern edge of the original plat of Kirkwood. The land is labeled "Spenser Smith, Kirkwood Seminary" on the original plat of Kirkwood, but does not appear to have ever been used for such a purpose.³ It had been converted to the "Subdivision of Spenser Smith's Estate" by the 1870s, when Tolhurst bought his land from Rachel E. Smith, and was called simply "Spenser Smith's Subdivision" on the 1893 atlas. Tolhurst bought four relatively small lots from Ms. Smith; the house lot today includes about half of that parcel.

The house stayed in Edwin Morris's family for decades. St. Louis County deed records show that his heirs borrowed against the property in 1887, and in 1893, Josephine Morris Burr, along with her husband George C. Burr, became the sole owners.⁴ George Burr was one of the trustees of the City of Kirkwood from 1894 to 1896. During that period, he was appointed to a committee to draw up a contract with the Suburban Electric Light Company. This was to arrange for electric street lights for Kirkwood, which were turned on for the first time on September 26, 1896.⁵

By 1910, the census report indicates that the property belongs to Charles H. and Maude Brandeth McLean. Locally, the house is referred to as the Talhurst-Burr House (a misspelling of the Tolhurst name), as well as the Pemberton-Munroe House, for the twentieth century owners. It remains in the Munroe family yet today, and continues to serve its original single family function. It is little changed, and in good condition. It exhibits a high level of integrity and craftsmanship, and is a large, significant example of the Italianate House property type in Kirkwood. △

² Book 494, page 393, at the Recorder of Deeds Office of St. Louis.

³ June Wilkinson Dahl, in *A History of Kirkwood, Missouri: 1851-1965*, (Kirkwood, Missouri: The Kirkwood Historical Society, 1965), p. 17, notes that after that first plat, no "further reference was made to his seminary."

⁴ Book 35, page 629, and Book 73, p. 124, at the Recorder of Deeds Office of St. Louis.

⁵ Dahl, p. 73, 424.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 9 Page 6

**Tolhurst, G.W., House
St. Louis County, Missouri
Historic Resources of Kirkwood, Missouri**

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Dahl, June Wilkinson. A History of Kirkwood, Missouri: 1861-1965. Kirkwood, MO.: The Kirkwood Historical Society, 1965.
- Edward's Annual Directory of St. Louis. 1865-1867.
- Johnson, Berkeley E. Atlas of St. Louis County. Clayton, MO: C. B. Black, 1893.
- Northwest Publishing Company. Plat Book of St. Louis County. Des Moines: IA, Northwest Publishing Company, 1909.
- Pitzman, Julius. Atlas of St. Louis City and County, 1878. Philadelphia: A. B. Holcombe and Co., 1878.
- Sanborn Fire Insurance Company, Map of Kirkwood, 1926.
- St. Louis County Deed Records. Recorder of Deeds Office, Clayton, MO.
- United States Census Bureau. Census Schedules. 1910.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 10, photographs Page 7

Tolhurst, G. W., House
St. Louis County, Missouri
Historic Resources of Kirkwood, Missouri

Verbal Boundary Description

The South 27 feet 6 inches of Lot 15, all of Lot 16 and the East 35 feet of Lot 17 and the East 35 feet of the south 27 feet 6 inches of Lot 18 of Spencer Smith's Subdivision in Section 1 Township 44 North Range 5 East, Kirkwood, in St. Louis County, Missouri as per plat thereof recorded in Plat Book 9 page 81 of the St. Louis City (formerly County) records, having a total acreage of 0.528 acres.

Boundary Justification

The boundaries encompass all of the land currently associated with the house.

Photographs

The following information is the same for all photographs:

Tolhurst, G. W., House

345 E. Argonne St.

Kirkwood, St. Louis County, MO

1-2, taken by Debbie Sheals, 406 West Broadway, Columbia, MO 65203; date: 2002

3-5, taken by Linda Stockman, 139 South Kirkwood Rd, Kirkwood, MO, 63122; date: 1990

(The house was field checked in 2002 to ensure the 1990 photos are still accurate.)

Negatives on file with the City of Kirkwood Dept of Planing and Development, 139 South Kirkwood Road, Kirkwood, MO 63122, 314-822-5808.

List of Photographs

See site plan/photo key for indication of camera angles.

1. Facade, south east corner
2. Detail, window on tower
3. West side, with tower.
4. Rear, northwest corner.
5. Rear, northeast corner.
6. Interior, stair hall and front door.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 11 Page 8

Tolhurst, G. W., House
St. Louis County, Missouri
Historic Resources of Kirkwood, Missouri

11. Form Prepared By

Name Linda Stockman
organization Kirkwood Landmark Commission date 1990
street & number 139 South Kirkwood Road telephone (314) 822-5808
city or town Kirkwood state Missouri zip code 63122

Name Deon K. Wolfenbarger
organization Three Gables Preservation date 1992
street & number 9550 N.E. Cookingham Drive telephone (816) 792-1275
city or town Kansas City state Missouri zip code 64157

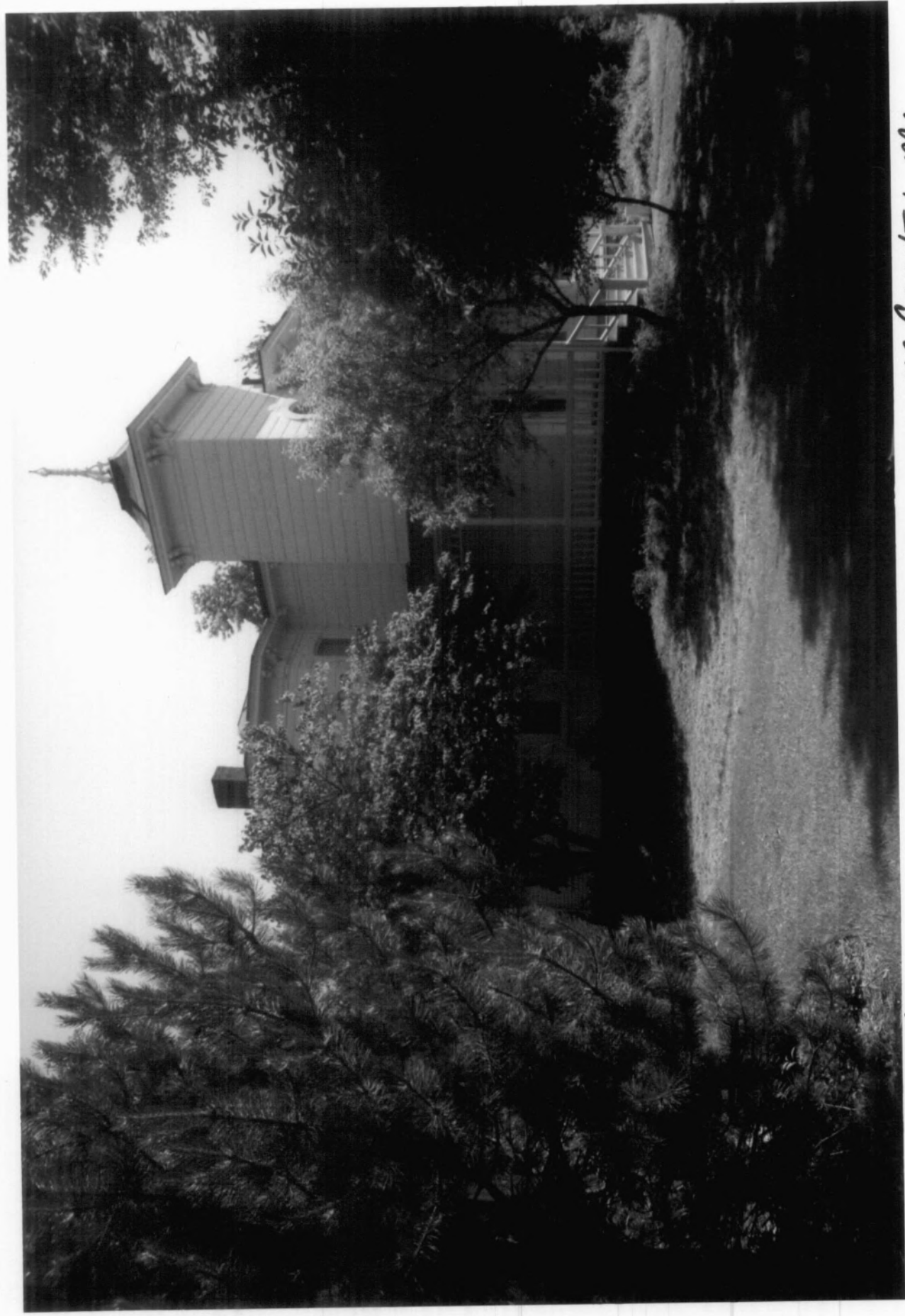
Name Debbie Sheals
organization Independent Contractor date May, 2002
street & number 406 West Broadway telephone 573-874-3779
city or town Columbia state Missouri zip code 65203

Tolhurst, G. W., House, 345 E. Argonne, Kirkwood, St. Louis County, Mo.
1.



Tolhuust, G. W., House, 345 E. Argonne, Kirkwood, St. Louis County, Mo.
2





TOLHURST, G.W., HOUSE, 345 E. ARGONNE, KIRKWOOD, ST. LOUIS COUNTY, MO



TOLHURST, G. W., HOUSE, 345 E. ARGONNE, KIRKWOOD, ST. LOUIS COUNTY, MO 4.



TOLHURST, G.W., HOUSE, 345 E. ARGONNE, KIRKWOOD, ST. LOUIS COUNTY, MO 5,

Tollhurst, G. W. House, 345 E. Arbonne, Kirkwood, St. Louis County, 1926

